

*In the Specification*

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a<sup>1</sup>

A first aspect of this invention resides in a replacement selection method for organizing data items from two or more input streams, the method providing improved handling of duplicate data items. In this method, a data item being processed from one of the input streams is identified as being a duplicate of a previously processed data item. An indication that the data item being processed is a duplicate data item is retained, and input streams containing the duplicate data items are alternated ~~the data items are organized responsive at least in part to that~~ indication.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2  
A second aspect of this invention resides in a computer-readable data structure representing a selection tree for use in a computer-implemented replacement selection method for organizing data items from two or more input streams. This data structure comprises for each node of the selection tree: an identifier of one of the input streams, a reference to a data item being processed from that one of the input streams; and a manager to alternate between input streams in response to an indication whether the data item being processed is a duplicate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Q3 A third aspect of this invention resides in an article for use in a computer implemented replacement selection method for organizing data items from two or more input streams. The article comprises a computer-readable signal-bearing medium with means in the medium for identifying a data item being processed from one of the input streams as being a duplicate of a previously processed data item. The medium also has in it means for retaining an indication that the data item being processed is a duplicate data item, and means for alternating between the input stream containing the duplicate item ~~organizing the data items responsive at least in part to that indication.~~

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